

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Canceled)
2. (Currently Amended) The ladder of ~~claim 21~~ claim 22, wherein the sleeve is a cylindrical sleeve having a predetermined length and a predetermined diameter.

Claims 3-6 (Canceled)

7. (Currently Amended) The ladder of ~~claim 21~~ claim 22, wherein the sleeve includes one of solid rubber and cellular rubber.

8. (Canceled)
9. (Previously Presented) The ladder of claim 7, wherein the cellular rubber includes closed cell rubber.
10. (Previously Presented) The ladder of claim 7, wherein the cellular rubber includes open cell rubber.

11. (Previously Presented) The ladder of claim 10, wherein the open cell rubber includes foam.

12. (Currently Amended) The ladder of ~~claim 21~~ claim 22, wherein the

sleeve further includes a slit that extends from the first surface to a second surface of the sleeve.

13. (Previously Presented) The ladder of claim 12, wherein the slit extends from the first end of the sleeve to the second end of the sleeve.

14. (Currently Amended) The ladder of ~~claim 21~~ claim 22, wherein the sleeve further includes a fabric layer connected to a second surface of the sleeve.

15. (Previously Presented) The ladder of claim 14, wherein the fabric layer is waterproof.

16. (Previously Presented) The ladder of claim 14, wherein the sleeve further includes a fastener connected to the fabric layer.

17. (Canceled)

18. (Currently Amended) The ladder of ~~claim 17~~ claim 22, wherein the sleeve is removable.

Claims 19-21 (Canceled)

22. (Currently Amended) A ladder comprising:
a first side rail;
a second side rail opposite the first side rail;
a rung connected to the first and second side rails; and
a sleeve which covers a substantial portion of the rung between the first and second side rails,

wherein:

- (a) said rung includes a plurality of grooves,
- (b) said sleeve includes an outer surface and an inner surface, said

inner surface having a plurality of grooved portions and a plurality of ungrooved portions,

(c) said ungrooved portions of said inner surface of said sleeve mating with said grooved portion of said rung,

(d) said outer surface of said sleeve is ungrooved, and

(e) said sleeve extends around substantially an entire circumference of said rung.

Claims 23-24(Canceled)